# DC #33

## DIRECT CURRENTS

BOOKS SHIPPING IN OCTOBER

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**BATMAN 3-D**
a new dimension in storytelling. . . .

**THE GREATEST 1950's STORIES EVER TOLD**
hardcover volume featuring '50s favorites . . .

**SUPERMAN #50**
a surprise from The Man of Steel™ . . .

**SWAMP THING: LOVE AND DEATH**
208-page trade paperback. . . .

## PLUS . . .

an interview with JERRY ORDWAY, DAN JURGENS, and ROGER STERN on *SUPERMAN*

Cover of the Month
**THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #13**

# THE *BATMAN* IN *3-D*

It's a whole new dimension in excitement—the third dimension—as the Dark Knight goes 3-D in **BATMAN 3-D.**

BATMAN 3-D is an 80-page softcover graphic novel featuring a mix of the new and the old, leading off with an all-new 48-page story written and drawn by John Byrne. The Penguin, The Joker, Two-Face, and The Riddler have all escaped prison and are engaged in a bizarre four-way contest to see which of them will claim credit for the death of a reclusive Gotham millionaire. It's a story of death traps and strange settings as The Batman is drawn into the depths of 3-D madness to learn who is really responsible.

Then, BATMAN 3-D re-presents "The Robot Robbers," a rare, 13-page 3-D Batman story from the 1950s starring Batman and Robin—a tale of aging criminal experts utilizing remote-control robots to launch a revival of their criminal careers, with art by Curt Swan and Sheldon Moldoff.

Rounding out this unique 3-D presentation is the pin-up section with new art featuring The Batman and his most famous foes as depicted by Arthur Adams, Jim Aparo, Bret Blevins and Al Williamson, Dave Gibbons, Klaus Janson, Mike Mignola, Jerry Ordway, George Pérez, Alex Toth, Barry Windsor-Smith, and Mike Zeck.

BATMAN 3-D features 3-D effects created by Ray Zone, a cover by Pepe Moreno, and comes with a pair of 3-D glasses.

BATMAN 3-D . . . where the action jumps off the page.

IN A SINGLE MIND-WRENCHING MOMENT, THE BATMAN FEELS THE WORLD OPEN BENEATH HIS FEET.
UNCONTROLLED HE PLUMMETS...DOWN DOWN DOWN...
INTO THE DARKEST REGIONS OF DESPAIR!
ALL ABOUT HIM FACES BORN OF NIGHTMARE SHRIEK AND CAPER...
AS THE SLENDER THREAD OF SANITY FRAYS AND SEEMS ABOUT TO SNAP!

# FROM • THE EDITOR

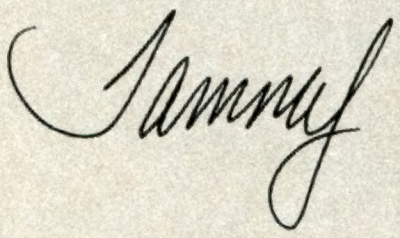
There are a couple of things I'd like to draw your attention to, readers. First is the interview this month with Jerry Ordway, Dan Jurgens, and Roger Stern. Now, loyal readers of DIRECT CURRENTS will know that Jerry and Dan have been interview subjects before. But this time, the difference is that they are, in conjunction with Roger Stern, talking about the continued exciting events happening in the life of DC's flagship character, Superman.

Next, I received the following letter:

Batman is one great comic book, but don't you think you guys are overdoing him? What I mean is that you don't have to do this. For this year alone there has been: Batman and Superman in the Superman titles, and in WORLD'S FINEST. In THE HUNTRESS. BATMAN: DIGITAL JUSTICE. BATMAN ARCHIVES. And I'm sure there are more, or will be more, in this year alone. So why are you overdoing Batman? Thank you for reading my letter.

Antonio Fernandez
2188 Paraiso Road
Dasmarinas Village
Makati, M,M PHILIPPINES

I'm sure that some of you feel Antonio has a point, but let me explain. Batman is one of DC's most popular characters, one who has had a long and rich history and has an equally promising future. A lot of readers have never seen the older Batman stories from the past, so DC published the BATMAN ARCHIVES. And as far as new products and guest appearances go, the majority of our readers want to see more of the Dark Knight Detective. However, DC publishes many other action-filled stories to suit many tastes. So pick your favorites and keep reading!



## *THE GREATEST 1950s STORIES EVER TOLD* HARDCOVER EDITION

The 1950s are known as the beginning of the Silver Age of Comics . . . and you'll find out why here, in **THE GREATEST 1950s STORIES EVER TOLD** Hardcover Edition, the sixth volume in DC's ongoing GREATEST STORIES series.

THE GREATEST 1950s STORIES EVER TOLD features an exciting mix of super-heroes, action/adventure heroes, science fiction, mystery, westerns, and humor, including Superboy, The Batman, Green Lantern, Aquaman, Green Arrow, Wonder Woman, Tomahawk, Tommy Tomorrow, Blackhawk, King Faraday, The Phantom Stranger, Jimmy Olsen, The Viking Prince, The Flash, Challengers of the Unknown, Lois Lane, Sugar and Spike, The Fox and The Crow, and more.

These stories, representing the best of the era that saw the birth of the modern super-hero, are written and drawn by some of comics' most legendary talents, including Frank Frazetta, Alex Toth, Jack Kirby, Curt Swan, Carmine Infantino, Jim Mooney, Gil Kane, Joe Kubert, Gardner Fox, Robert Kanigher, Sheldon Mayer and many others.

The 288-page THE GREATEST 1950s STORIES EVER TOLD HARDCOVER EDITION, re-presenting 29 of the decade's classic comic book stories, also features a foreword with contributions from many of the writers and aritsts whose work appears in the volume, and an introduction by series editor Mike Gold.

THE GREATEST 1950s STORIES EVER TOLD HARDCOVER EDITION . . . the best and the brightest of a decade of greatness.

## THE GODS WALK THE EARTH IN THE *AVATAR*™ MINISERIES

The Tablets of Fate have been stolen. Lord Ao, creator and ruler of the gods, is furious. And the Earth will be made to suffer the price of his rage as he banishes the gods to the realm of humans and elves in the latest of the DC/TSR comics line, **AVATAR**™. The gods will stop at nothing to recover the stolen relics and appease Lord Ao's anger . . . and the gods help any human (or other being) who gets in their way.

AVATAR™ Comics is a 3-issue New Format miniseries (published at 6-week intervals), each issue featuring 96 pages of sword-and-sorcery action written by Barbara Kesel, with art by Dameon Willich and Monika Livingston. The painted cover is by Willich.

AVATAR™ . . . where the gods walk the Earth.

**Paul Kupperberg, Writer**
**Tammy Brown, Editor**

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All Rights Reserved. All characters and the distinctive likenesses of THE SHADOW are Trademarks of The Condé Nast Publications, Inc. STAR TREK and STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION elements Copyright © 1990 Paramount Pictures Corporation. All Rights Reserved. BREATHTAKER Copyright © 1990 Mark Wheatley and Marc Hempel. All Rights Reserved. THE NAZZ Copyright © 1990 Tom Veitch and Bryan Talbot.



Printed in Canada

# SWAMP THING: LOVE AND DEATH TRADE PAPERBACK

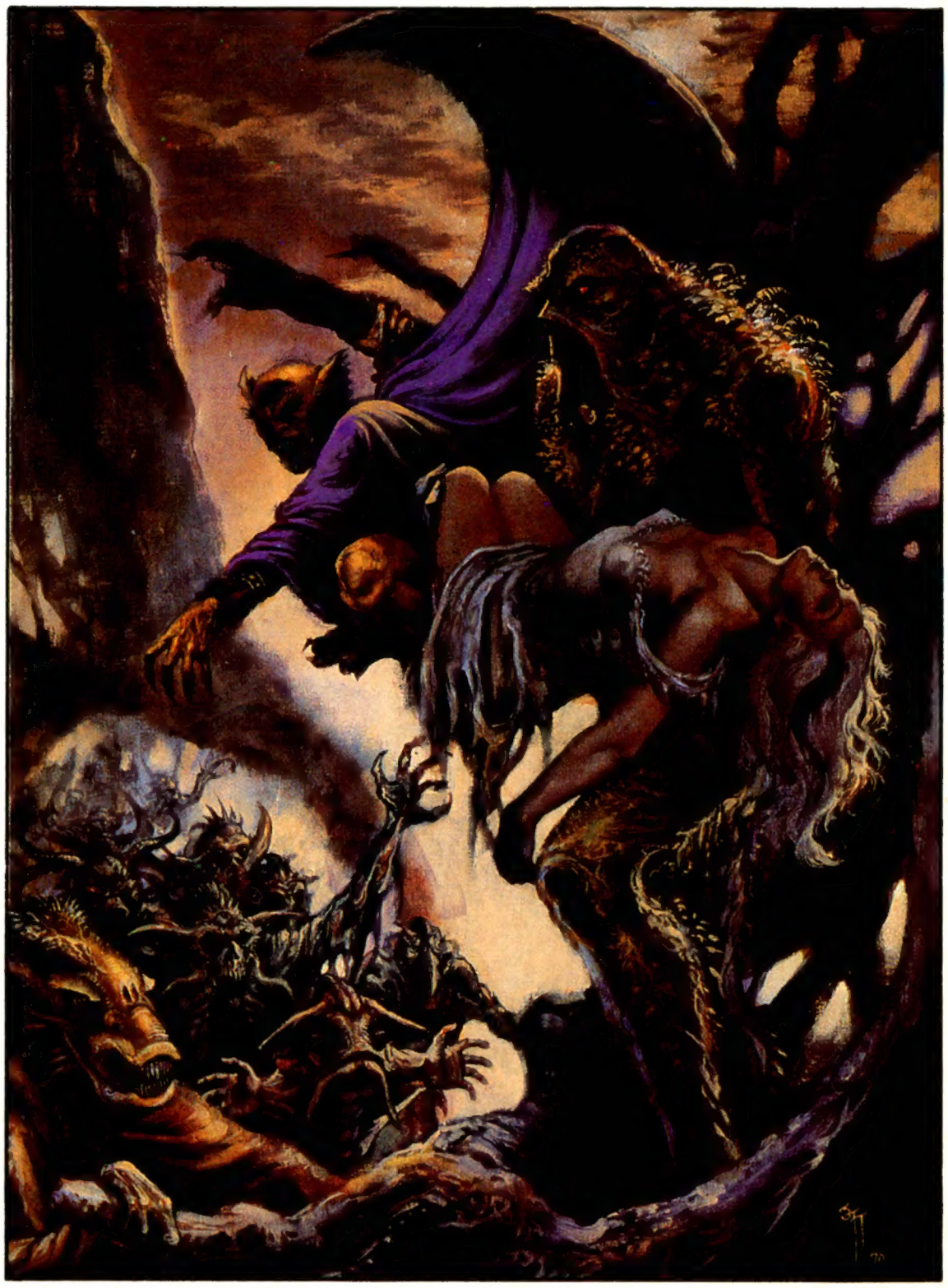
Love and death—two basic principles in the lives of humans—and in the life of Swamp Thing. In DC's new **SWAMP THING: LOVE AND DEATH TRADE PAPERBACK,** Swamp Thing goes to the demonic underworld to save the woman he loves.

SWAMP THING: LOVE AND DEATH is a collection of SWAMP THING #28–34, including the award-winning SWAMP THING #2 ANNUAL, "Down Amongst the Deadmen," where Abby dies and Swamp Thing goes to Hell to retrieve her soul, and the acclaimed "Pog" story from SWAMP THING #32.

Special guest stars from the DC Universe appearing in these stories are The Phantom Stranger, The Demon, Deadman, The Spectre, and more. Writer Alan Moore has crafted stories that combine horror with the sensitivity of character that SWAMP THING readers have come to expect. Artists from the past and present are represented including Steve Bissette, John Totleben, Shawn McManus, Rick Veitch, Ron Randall, and Alfredo Alcala. In addition, the very first SWAMP THING by creators Len Wein and Berni Wrightson is integrated into the ongoing story in this volume. Plus, original colorist Tatjana Wood has re-colored the entire package. **John Totleben has painted an all-new cover especially for this volume.** The introduction is by HELLBLAZER's Jamie Delano, and background text is by SANDMAN'S Neil Gaiman.

SWAMP THING: LOVE AND DEATH TRADE PAPERBACK is a 208-page book that is Suggested for Mature Readers, and will be priced at $17.95.

An exploration of the basic tenets of life is yours to follow in SWAMP THING: LOVE AND DEATH TRADE PAPERBACK.



# ANNIVERSARY SURPRISES IN SUPERMAN # 50

You've been following the four-part "Krisis of the Krimson Kryptonite" that rendered the Man of Steel powerless since last month.

Now that story comes to its stunning conclusion here, in **SUPERMAN #50** . . . an anniversary celebration issue that features a whole lot more than its share of surprises.

Because not only does Superman at last learn the secret of Red Kryptonite . . .

Not only do Lex Luthor and Mr. Mxyzptlk guest star . . .

Not only do guest-artists Curt Swan, Dan Jurgens, Kerry Gammill, Art Thibert, John Byrne, and Brett Breeding join regular writer/penciller Jerry Ordway and inker Dennis Janke in this special 48-page story . . .

. . . But there's also a major change in store in the life of Clark Kent that's guaranteed to come as one of the biggest surprises in the 50-year-plus history of the Man of Steel. To find out just what that major event is, you'll have to be here. And even then, you might not believe it.

SUPERMAN #50 . . . a whole new chapter for Superman begins.

# BOOKS SHIPPING IN OCTOBER

☐ **ACTION COMICS #659**
Part 3 of the 4-part "Krisis of the Krimson Kryptonite": Continued from STARMAN #28 and ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #472. An escape from Stryker's Island means that the powerless Superman needs the help of Guardian, Gangbuster, and The Project to round up the escaped villains. Continues in SUPERMAN #50. Written by Roger Stern, with art by Bob McLeod and Brett Breeding. Cover by Kerry Gammill and Breeding. $0.75

☐ **ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #3**
When Superman is summoned to Australia by an old flame, he learns that she's still struggling with the aftermath of last year's deadly Invasion . . . and looking for revenge against the members of the murderous alien alliance remaining on Earth. Written by Chris Claremont, with art and cover by Michael Golden. $2.00

☐ **ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ COMIC #24**
Part 1 of the 3-part "Scavengers": Following a battle far from Waterdeep, Timoth must bring the wounded Vajra to shelter among hostile centaurs during a raging battle. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art by Jan Duursema and Rick Magyar. Cover by Duursema. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #473**
The Man of Steel needs help from Green Lantern . . . but while he's seeking out Hal Jordan, he winds up with Guy Gardner, which may translate into more of a hindrance than a help. Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens, with inks by Art Thibert. Cover by Jurgens and Thibert. $0.75

☐ **ANIMAL MAN #30**
Animal Man's world continues to fall apart around him . . . how can Buddy take time out from trying to save the President's life to straighten things out? Written by Peter Milligan, with art by Chas Truog and Mark Farmer. Cover by Brian Bolland. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **AVATAR™ COMIC #1**
*(of a 3-issue miniseries)*
Lord Ao, creator and ruler of the gods, banishes the gods to the realm of humans and elves in retaliation for the theft of the Tablets of Fate . . . and the only way to regain their place alongside their master is to recover the stolen relics. Each of these three 96-page issues will be published at 6-week intervals. All are written by Barbara Kesel, with art by Dameon Willich and Monika Livingston. Painted cover by Willich. *(New Format)* $5.95

☐ **BATMAN #457**
It was bound to happen . . . Tim Drake's dreams come true at last as he becomes the new Robin to help save The Batman from the mysterious Master of Fear who is killing the Dark Knight by inches. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell. Cover by Breyfogle. $1.00

☐ **BATMAN 3-D SOFTCOVER GRAPHIC ALBUM**
Batman is the 3-D star of this 80-page graphic novel, featuring The Dark Knight Detective's hunt for The Penguin, The Joker, The Riddler, and Two-Face to determine which of them is responsible for the death of a Gotham millionaire. Story written and illustrated by John Byrne. Also included is a classic 3-D Batman story from the 1950s by Curt Swan and Sheldon Moldoff, and 3-D pin-ups of The Batman and his famous foes by Arthur Adams, Jerry Ordway, Dave Gibbons, George Pérez, Klaus Janson and others. 3-D effects are by Ray Zone and the cover is by Pepe Moreno. $9.95

☐ **BREATHTAKER #4**
*(of a 4-book miniseries)*
Chase finally comes to grip with who she really is and is forced to face that reality as she confronts The Man . . . who has a breathtaking revelation of his own to deal with. Written by Marc Hempel, with art and cover by Mark Wheatley. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. Prestige Format.) $4.95*

☐ **CHECKMATE! #33**
Checkmate's final mission in its own title as the entire Knight force engages in an all-out assault against the army seeking to overthrow the nation of Austanburg. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Gabriel Morrissette and John Statema. Plus, a special 8-page backup that pits Checkmate against deadly arms dealers in exotic India. Written by Kupperberg, with art by Randy DuBurke. Cover by Erwin and Will Blyberg. This final 32-page issue contains no advertising. *(New Format)* $2.00

☐ **CAPTAIN ATOM #47**
Captain Atom and Randy Eiling are sent on a covert mission to Cambodia—to fight the evil sorcerer Kru. Written by Sarah Byam, with art by Rafael Kayanan and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Pat Broderick. $1.00

☐ **THE DEMON #6**
Sing along with The Demon as Etrigan battles Merlin and the fiery beings of Hell in a musical nightmare . . . a symphonic conquest of the netherworld. Written by Alan Grant, with art and cover by Val Semeiks and Denis Rodier. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **DETECTIVE COMICS #623**
Part 2 of the 3-part "Demon Within": Batman continues to follow the trail of the serial killer who is taking his inspiration from the unauthorized "Batman" comic book. The main story is by John Ostrander, with art by Mike McKone and José Marzan, Jr. The "comic book" story-within-the-story is by Ostrander, with art by Flint Henry. Cover by Golden Age Batman great Dick Sprang. $1.00

☐ **DR. FATE #23**
Lives end and souls are released . . . can these events herald the return of Kent and Inza Nelson? Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Shawn McManus.*(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE DOOM PATROL #39**
The Doom Patrol travels to the bizarre worlds of the aliens. Can they stop them from using Rhea Jones as a pawn in their insane war? Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Richard Case and Mark McKenna. Painted cover by Simon Bisley. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format)* $1.50

☐ **DRAGONLANCE™ #25**
Part 4 of the 4-part "Taladas": Riva Silvercrown finally understands her mission in Taladas as Skrum falls under the spell of the Dragon Ring, turning against Riva and friends in the climactic battle against Axantheas. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art and cover by Ron Randall. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **DRAGONLANCE™ ANNUAL #1**
Myrella of the Robed Wizards arrives on Taladas to restore the balance between good and evil . . . a feat that must be accomplished between battles with glass sailors, hobgoblins, and the Minotaur League. Written by Dan Mishkin, Jack C. Harris, and Gary Cohn, with art by Greg Guler and Ken Penders. Painted cover by Jan Duursema. *(New Format)* $2.95

☐ **EL DIABLO #16**
El Diablo rides into the sunset in this, his final issue, as he attempts to find out what the future holds for him. Written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by Mike Parobeck and Paul Fricke. *(New Format)* $2.00

☐ **FLASH #45**
A rash of crimes by animals can mean only one thing . . . the return of Gorilla Grodd. Written by William Messner-Loebs; art and cover by Greg LaRocque and José Marzan, Jr. $1.00

☐ **FORGOTTEN REALMS™ #16**
Part 1 of the 4-part "Mad Gods and Paladins": The gods are falling from the heavens and they're looking for corporeal bodies to inhabit in the Realms . . . and one of them has his eye on Vartan's form. Written by Jeff Grubb, with art and cover by R.A. Morales and Dave Simons. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **FORGOTTEN REALMS™ ANNUAL #1**
The Realms Master anchors in Waterdeep so Agrivar can celebrate a long overdue reunion with his sister . . . while the crew of the Forgotten Realms clash with the ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS gang. Written by Jeff Grubb with art by Tom Raney, Dan Reed and Eric Kachelhofer. Painted cover by Gil Kane. *(New Format)* $2.95

# BOOKS SHIPPING IN OCTOBER

**THE GREATEST 1950s STORIES EVER TOLD HARDCOVER EDITION**

DC's re-presentation of more of the greatest stories from our archives continues in this 288-page hardcover edition, featuring 29 of the best tales from the 1950s Silver Age of Comics, including art by Frank Frazetta, Alex Toth, Jack Kirby, Curt Swan, Gil Kane, Carmine Infantino, Sheldon Mayer and others on stories featuring the Shining Knight, Superboy, The Batman, Tomahawk, Blackhawk, Phantom Stranger, and Sugar and Spike, to name just a few. $29.95

**GREEN ARROW #40**

A fateful meeting shows Oliver Queen that the peace he so desperately seeks is to be found in only one place. Written and drawn by Mike Grell. This is Grell's first work as artist on GREEN ARROW since the LONGBOW HUNTERS miniseries. Painted cover by Grell. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format)* $1.25

**GREEN LANTERN #7**

The Guardian known as the Old Timer has gone mad . . . and in that madness, he's gone too far. But not even the rest of the Guardians and John Stewart, Hal Jordan, and Guy Gardner combined can defeat his mad schemes. Written by Gerard Jones, with art by Pat Broderick and Bruce Patterson. Cover by Broderick and Mark Nelson. $1.00

**HAWK & DOVE #19**

Part 2 of the 2-part "Hawk & Dove Meet The Creeper": The Creeper and Hawk & Dove fight the "communal" mind of the insidious Madmen. Written by Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art by Greg Guler and Scott Hanna. Cover by Guler and Karl Kesel. $1.00

**HAWKWORLD #7**

Shayera and Katar are closing in on Byth's plan, forcing the Thanagarian villain to go on the defensive . . . and that just might prove deadly to Hawkman and Hawkwoman. Written by Tim Truman and John Ostrander, with art and cover by Graham Nolan. *(New Format)* $1.50

**HAWKWORLD ANNUAL #1**

What is the mysterious connection between Thanagarian Katar Hol and Earthman Carter Hall? Hawkman abducts Flash and takes him along on a quest to discover the meaning behind the hawk symbol and the riddle of the Hawkmen of two worlds. Guest villain: The Fiddler. Guest hero: the Golden Age Hawkman. Written by John Ostrander, with art by Gary Kwapisz. Painted cover by Timothy Truman. *(New Format)* $2.95

**HELLBLAZER #36**

Constantine is astrally cast into the future . . . to experience his own death in a strange, alien, near-future world. Written by Jamie Delano, with art by Sean Phillips. Painted cover by Kent Williams. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format)* $1.50

**JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #45**

This may prove the most dangerous mission Ice has ever undertaken . . . she's agreed to go out with Guy Gardner again—only this time he's promised to behave himself. Honest. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Russell Braun and José Marzan, Jr. Cover by Adam Hughes. $1.00

**JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #20**

The JLE is now the toast of Paris when British hero Beefeater visits the JLE, and he and Kilowog really hit it off . . . actually, it's more like they smash it up. Written by Keith Giffen and Gerard Jones, and pencilled by Marshall Rogers. Cover by Bart Sears. $1.00

**JUSTICE LEAGUE QUARTERLY #2**

Purple mountain majesties? Amber waves of grain? How tacky! At least that's the opinion of Mr. Nebula, the invulnerable, omnipotent Cosmic Designer who's come to redecorate our planet. It'll take the combined power of the Justice League, G'nort, and the Scarlet Skier to keep him from giving Mother Earth the once over . . . which means we could all be facing a new color scheme real soon. . . . Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Tom Artis and Bruce Patterson. Cover by Adam Hughes. $2.95

**L.E.G.I.O.N. '90 #22**

The L.E.G.I.O.N. takes off to Talok for the final showdown with Mr. Starr. Can his power beat the might of the Emerald Eye? Written by Alan Grant, with art by Jim Fern and Jeff Albrecht. Cover by Garry Leach. *(New Format)* $1.50

**LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #13**

Part 3 of the 5-part "Prey": Hugo Strange continues to groom Max Cort to become the Night Scourge, a worthy opponent for the Dark Knight, as he comes closer to discovering The Batman's secret. Written by Doug Moench, with art by Paul Gulacy and Terry Austin. Cover by Gulacy. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.50

**THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #13**

Kent Shakespeare goes head-to-head against the Persuader and his atomic axe. Meanwhile, Jo Nah ("Ultra Boy") finds himself a guest of a barbaric Khundish couple and winds up fighting for his life. In another universe, the Empress Glorith encounters her predecessor in the space/time continuum: The Time Trapper. Also in this issue is a special 10″×18″ gatefold poster of the entire Legion in their new costumes, by Keith Giffen and Al Gordon, and painted by Tom McCraw. Written by Keith Giffen, and Tom and Mary Bierbaum, with art and cover by Keith Giffen and Al Gordon. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

**THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #14**

Tenzil Kem (Matter-Eater Lad) rejoins the Legion . . . just in time to go to HELL. Jo Nah faces some hard times himself as he encounters some strangely bloodthirsty (even for them) Khunds. Written by Tom and Mary Bierbaum, with art and cover by Keith Giffen and Al Gordon. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

**LOBO #2**

*(of a 4-issue miniseries)*

The chase is on as Lobo and his charge are pursued across the universe by some very miffed characters. Meanwhile, Lobo attends a very unusual ballet and something unpleasant happens to Miss Tribb. Written by Keith Giffen and Alan Grant, with art and painted cover by Simon Bisley. *(New Format)* $1.50

**MISTER MIRACLE #22**

Preee-senting . . . the new Mister Miracle as Scott Free begins training Shilo Norman to replace him as the World's Greatest Escape Artist. Guest-starring Highfather. Written by Doug Moench, with art and cover by Joe Phillips and Bob Dvorak. $1.00

**THE NAZZ #2**

*(of a 4-book miniseries)*

The Nazz becomes a comic book hero as well as a real-life one, courtesy of his best friend Johnny. But real life is occupied with uncovering the secrets behind the government's heroes The Retaliators and the Nazz's efforts to imbue his followers with superpowers of their own. Written by Tom Veitch, with art and cover by Bryan Talbot and color by Steve Whitaker. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. Prestige Format.)* $4.95

**NEW GODS #22**

Metron's meditations over his role in the future of the New Gods are interrupted as he crosses paths with an old and deadly foe. Written by Mark Evanier, with art and cover by Rick Hoberg and Will Blyberg. *(New Format)* $1.50

**THE NEW TITANS #72**

The old Titans are missing and the Terminator's been hired to find them. But the race against time turns deadly when a Titan dies. Guest-starring Aqualad and Golden Eagle. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art and cover by Tom Grummett and Al Vey. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

**THE SANDMAN #22**

Sandman prepares to return to Hell for a bizarre rescue mission to reclaim Nada's spirit. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art by Kelley Jones. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

# BOOKS SHIPPING IN OCTOBER

☐ **SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN #6**
If life is a movie, why doesn't it make more sense? Shade and Kathy must puzzle it out, or remain trapped forever in the Film of Life. Written by Peter Milligan, with art by Chris Bachalo and Mark Pennington. Painted cover by Brendan McCarthy. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE SHADOW STRIKES! #14**
Part 3 of 4: The conflict between The Shadow and the Chicago Mob builds to a violent confrontation . . . and when the smoke finally clears, there's some doubt as to what will be left of the Windy City and The Shadow. Written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by Eduardo Barreto. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **SPELLJAMMER™ COMIC #4**
Part 4 of the 4-part "Rogue Ship": The ship is on its way back to Unipaxala with its crew and the unwilling Kirstig, but safety is a long way away as they run into a horde of Neogi and Umber Hulks that see Spelljammer as their dinner. Written by Barbara Kesel, with art by Michael Collins and Dan Panosian. Cover by Collins. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **STAR TREK® #15**
After three centuries of being lost in space, the legendary Worthy family return to their homeworld to find a terrifying surprise. Written by Peter David and Bill Mumy, with art by Gordon Purcell and Arne Starr. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **STAR TREK®: THE NEXT GENERATION #15**
Though captives of the Ferengi, Riker and Geordi must try to prevent an insidious plot to gut an entire planet. Written by Michael Jan Friedman, with art by Pablo Marcos. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **STARMAN #29**
Will's desire to get a place of his own reunites him with Carol . . . at least in business, while Prescott and Duncan from the "organization" bring along a new friend to pay Dr. Melrose a visit. Written by Len Strazewski, with art by guest penciller Grant Miehm, and Scott Hanna. Cover by Dave Hoover. $1.00

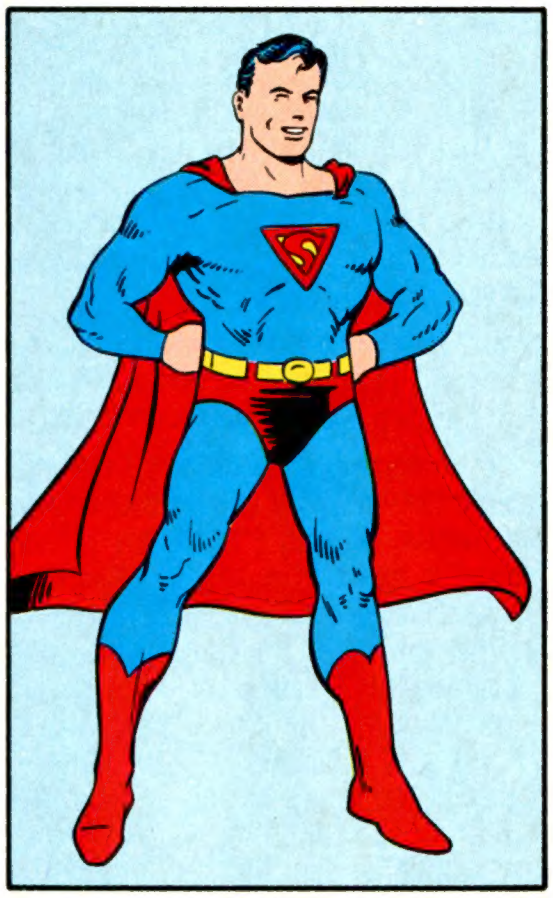
☐ **SUICIDE SQUAD #47**
Kobra corrupts the artificial intelligence called DYBBUK and endangers an important shrine in Jerusalem . . . and only the new Atom is able to learn of Kobra's plan in time to prevent an international catastrophe. Written by John Ostrander and Kim Yale, with art and cover by Geof Isherwood. $1.00

☐ **SUPERBOY #11**
Clark Kent's looking forward to a quiet vacation at home with the folks in Smallville. What he gets is a maelstrom of trouble from mob violence and a rock star on the lam crossing paths with Superboy. Written by John Moore, with art by Curt Swan and Ty Templeton. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Templeton. $1.00

☐ **SUPERMAN #50**
Part 4 of the 4-part "Krisis of the Krimson Kryptonite": Continued from ACTION COMICS #659. The Man of Steel celebrates his 50th issue in this double-sized anniversary special that has Superman at last learning the secret of Red Kryptonite. Also in this issue, a dramatic change in the relationship between Clark Kent and Lois Lane. Written by Jerry Ordway, with art by Ordway, Dan Jurgens, Curt Swan, Kerry Gammill, Dennis Janke, Art Thibert, John Byrne, and Brett Breeding. Cover by Ordway. $1.50

☐ **SUPERMAN ARCHIVES #2**
Comics history continues to unfold in the deluxe hardcover edition of the second volume of the Superman Archives, reprinting in their entirety the 1940s SUPERMAN #5–8, by writer Jerry Siegel and artist Joe Shuster. This 272-page hardcover volume also features an introduction by comics historian Ron Goulart. $39.95

☐ **SWAMP THING #102**
The epic conflict between the Green and the Grey is coming, but before Swamp Thing faces that, he and Abby have to rebuild their daughter's body . . . and survive a deadly attack by Matango's army of zombies. Written by Doug Wheeler, with art by Mike Hoffman and Peter Gross. Painted cover by Simon Bisley. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50



**SUPERMAN ARCHIVES #2**

☐ **SWAMP THING: LOVE AND DEATH TRADE PAPERBACK EDITION**
Reprinted for the first time in a single 208-page trade paperback volume are SWAMP THING #28–34 and SWAMP THING ANNUAL #2, the saga of Swamp Thing's journey through Hell to reclaim the soul of his beloved Abby. Written by Alan Moore, with art by Steve Bissette, John Totleben, Shawn McManus, Rick Veitch, Ron Randall, and Alfredo Alcala. This book also includes the very first Swamp Thing story by Len Wein and Berni Wrightson. All-new painted cover by John Totleben. Introduction by Jamie Delano and background text by Neil Gaiman. The entire package has been re-colored by the original colorist, Tatjana Wood. *(Suggested for Mature Readers)* $17.95

☐ **TWILIGHT #2**
*(of a 3-book miniseries)*
A thousand years have passed since TWILIGHT #1 . . . but immortality and universal peace between all the planets isn't what it's cracked up to be, especially when that peace is dictated by Karel Sorensen's religious doctrines. Only Tommy Tomorrow is willing to challenge Karel's godhood and pave the way for the new Twilight. Written by Howard Chaykin, with art and cover by José Luis Garcia-Lopéz. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. Prestige Format.)* $3.95

☐ **WHO'S WHO #5**
*(of a 16-issue maxiseries)*
There are 24 all-new entries in this month's WHO'S WHO, cover-featuring the Batmobile by Norm Breyfogle and spotlighting Batman's friends and foes,including entries on The Penguin by Jim Aparo, Poison Ivy by Kevin Maguire, The Riddler by Kieron Dwyer and Dennis Janke, Martian Manhunter by Adam Hughes and Mark Nelson, and Sandman by Mike Dringenberg and Malcolm Jones III, plus many more. *(Deluxe Loose-Leaf Format)* $4.95

☐ **WHO'S WHO BINDER**
Looking for a way to store all those loose-leaf page entries to the all-new WHO'S WHO? Here's how . . . in the all-new WHO'S WHO loose-leaf binder, featuring cover art by George Pérez depicting Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, Hawkman, Flash, The Joker and more of the characters you'll be filing away inside. $8.00

☐ **WONDER WOMAN #49**
A TV documentary focuses on Wonder Woman's struggles, foes, friends, and fellow super-heroes . . . plus an historic turning point next month in the special double-sized 50th anniversary issue of Wonder Woman. Written by George Pérez, with art by Colleen Doran. Cover by Pérez. $1.00

# people at WORK

## DAN JURGENS JERRY ORDWAY ROGER STERN

This month we plan to tease you, a lot, by talking about an event that's coming up this month . . . without telling you what that event is. If you've already read the feature article on SUPERMAN #50 in this issue of *Direct Currents,* you'll know that we want it to be a surprise. But just to whet your appetite, we had Jerry Ordway, Roger Stern, and Dan Jurgens share their impressions of the character they all write . . . and to talk around that surprise event.

"I think my first recollection of Superman was from the reruns of the TV show I saw as a kid," SUPERMAN writer and artist Jerry Ordway told us. "The show really focused a lot more on Clark and Lois and Jimmy and Perry. Superman was there, of course, but usually to clean up the loose ends. The core characters really seemed to like each other. There was a basic sense of camaraderie that you could really see."

"I think, like most of us, I grew up being aware of Superman first from the George Reeves television series," ACTION COMICS writer Roger Stern recalls. "Then I walked into a store and saw the big logo and realized 'He's in the comic book, too, just like they say on TV.' And since I saw the TV show before I was able to read, I'm sure that helped inspire me to learn to read so that I could read these stories."

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN writer and penciller Dan Jurgens has vaguely similar early memories of the Man of Steel. "My impressions of Superman were pretty much formed by Curt Swan's Superman. As a matter of fact, the first comic I ever bought was a Superman comic, circa 1966. To me then, even as a child, he was and still is the ultimate comic book hero."

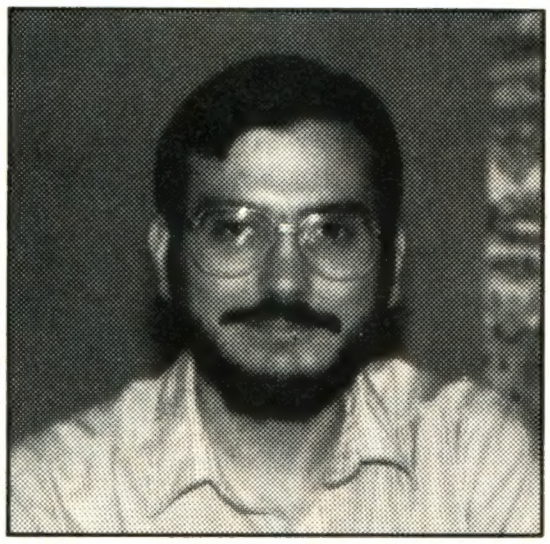
Roger told us, "When Mike Carlin asked me to first do some Superman stories, I thought, 'Wow, I'm going full circle here.' It was my chance to give back a little bit of the fun I got when I was reading the comics growing up. It didn't really sink in until I was about a third of the way into the plot and I wrote 'We cut to the Daily Planet building. Inside, Jimmy Olsen walks up to Clark Kent . . .' And then it hit me: gee, I'm really writing Superman! The Daily Planet . . . this is the place. It was a big thrill.

"And it's still a little bit of a thrill every time I sit down to write Superman. It's a responsibility, because this is Superman, the granddaddy of them all and he stands for something . . . for really good ideals and the right upbringing. I was at a convention and someone asked me 'Why is there a Superman? Bruce Wayne became Batman because his parents were killed and he vowed to fight crime, but why does Superman do what he does?' And I said, 'Because his parents brought him up that way.' Everyone's got a responsibility to help people out as best they can and he's able to help out better than most, so he does it. It's the right thing to do, it was the way he was brought up."

"The big thing about having Superman as the alter ego of the 'real guy' Clark is that you have Clark able to draw on Ma and Pa Kent for emotional support," Jerry said. "He can turn

DAN JURGENS

JERRY ORDWAY



ROGER STERN

to them for advice and they're a very strong role model for him as a long lasting and stable relationship. He's grown up with that and he still strives for that sense of the American dream. He wants to spend his life with somebody because that's been his experience growing up.

"In another way, the big event in SUPERMAN #50 also plays up Clark's human side because it has him dealing with his learned human emotions and responses. Overall, I think he's dealt with the situation in a kind of naive but honest way. I don't think you could say he was a total creep, although he did act like something of a jerk. It's like he walked into the situation without fully knowing the ramifications or having all the social skills necessary to deal with it . . . but then, who among us does have them?"

Dan agrees, adding, "The trick is not to make him the ultimate Boy Scout or the ultimate good guy in a white hat, because that's the perception that so many people ended up coming to after fifty years of publication.

"The big thing for me when I came on the book," Dan continues, "was getting acquainted with all the changes that had been made in Superman, because my background was with the character as he existed before John Byrne revamped the character and I was trying to pick up on that and run with it. To me, the biggest thing Byrne did that I thought was a great touch was to bring back the Kents. I think the fact that they're around really adds that touch of humanity that's otherwise so hard to bring out. When you have a guy who's that incredibly powerful, there's just not a lot of humanity there. But all of a sudden you give him a mom and a dad and the farm back home in Kansas and that gives him a place to touch base with his humanity.

"I think that's how we all approach it and that's how we ended up with the surprise ending in SUPERMAN #50—and why we'll proceed from there as we will, because I think the most interesting aspect of the character is not so much Superman as it is Clark Kent and everything that goes along with him. We don't see the character as Clark Kent putting on a Superman suit so much as Superman putting on a pair of glasses."

Not surprisingly, Jerry has a very similar take on the Man of Steel. "I think that the character relationships I saw on the TV show and have brought to the comics are still the main appeal of the book. You have ordinary people in extraordinary situations. You have people who have normal problems and people who have extra-normal problems, like Lex Luthor losing his hand to Kryptonite radiation.

"In fact," he continues, "I think the human aspect is really the focal point of SUPERMAN #50, how the impact of Luthor's hatred for Superman ultimately led to his hurting himself and how Clark deals with it. The issue has a confrontation between Clark and Luthor, with Clark, the reporter, grilling Luthor on why he hates Superman, trying to figure out why there's this hatred and resentment. The title of the story is 'The Human Factor,' and I think that comes through in a lot of ways, especially since in the last few months of the Superman titles leading into #50 Superman's been powerless, turned human. So he has to deal with all his emotions and personal crisis and super-hero crisis on human terms.

"I think the readers appreciate things that are grounded in that kind of reality. Even if the characters are fantastically strong, they still want to see some human touches. They like their super-heroics, but at the same time they're willing to put up with less punching through walls and more on how this guy interacts with his co-workers, how he handles romance, how he gets by in everyday life."

Roger also believes it was that human side of Superman that inspired the event in question, saying, "Jerry and Mike were talking about it, debating how it should be approached, whether we should just go for it, and we all said, 'Yeah!' When I got a copy of the page that Jerry drew where it happens, I thought it was great. People's jaws will be dropping all over the country.

"I think the story really evolved to the point, like the old cliché about stories writing themselves. When you've got characters with personalities as strong as they are and you get them into these situations, stories start suggesting themselves as you get into it. This ending just sort of popped up and said 'Here I am!' And we all thought, 'Yeah, that's it!' "

"I think we'd all acknowledge that we probably went a little faster than we normally would on this," Dan points out, "but I think it was something that we wanted to see and that the readers wanted to have happen."

Roger, like Jerry and Dan, is excited about what's going on in the trio of Superman titles. "It's like every time we turn around lately, there's another turning pont. Things keep happening faster and faster."

# SUGAR AND SPIKE

From the DC Archives comes the cover of that 1950's fan favorite, SUGAR AND SPIKE #1.